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THE NATIONAL ERA.

G. BAILEY, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR; JOHN G. WHITTIER, CORRESPONDING EDITOR.

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WASHINGTON, D. C.

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FOR THE NATIONAL ERA.

ROSA AND HER SUITORS.

A TALE OF SWEDISH DOMESTIC LIFE.

BY EMILIE P. CARLETON.

Author of "One Year of Wedlock"; "The Birds of Ossabaw," &c. &c.

TRANSLATED BY ELBERT PERCE.

CHAP. X.

The Mysterious Package—The Surprise.

Christmas day was ushered in by a severe snow storm; and as there was no company at Mr. Widens' house, and the family themselves had no engagement, the general discomfiture was still more augmented by the wretched weather. Everybody seemed weary, and yawned unmercifully. The Captain had dined with one of his superior officers, and was to remain there until evening, and the family were quite alone.

The Merchant was playing patience, and inclined to quarrel with the cards, because they would not give right, notwithstanding all the ingenuity he was using in turning one, every individual card, and canvassing its possible significance. His wife was turning over the leaves of a magazine of arts, fashions, and novelties. Rosa was practicing a favorite air at the piano. The boys were playing at a side-table. And the girls were dressing their dolls.

Suddenly, a slight scraping of feet was heard in the passage.—Hans suddenly stopped playing, and her heart began to beat with an impetuosity that rendered any attempt at singing out of the question, for it quite took away her breath. One, two, three, eternal seconds, which were utterly unmarked by the other members of the party, seemed to her to creep by with deadly tedium. At length the door opened, and Mannerstedt's tall figure appeared, a well known to the terrorsome monkey.

"Dear me, for Heaven's sake," cried Madame Widens, tossing her book to the other end of the sofa, "is that you, Mr. Mannerstedt? You come exactly at the right moment; we have no company this evening, and you are most heartily welcome. But, good heavens, Mr. Mannerstedt, could you venture out under the circumstances, when you were in bed with this very morning?"

Mannerstedt bowed deeply, and replied:—"Well, I am very sorry, but it was the mind itself that suffered; and I was very anxious to thank you for the great kindness you have shown me in my sorrow."

"You really must not mention that, my dear Mannerstedt," said Hans, laughing. "I am sure you will not be able to bear it; this is the common course of this life, and we must make the best of it; for when once a thing has occurred, I say, and always shall say, mourning about it answers no purpose."

Mannerstedt bowed silently, in answer to these very superfluous arguments of consolation, and turned his eyes to Mr. Widens, who merely looked up for an instant from his cards, with a kindly nod, and said—

"Very, very sorry for you, indeed, Mr. Mannerstedt; but pray excuse me, for I am just now so completely taken up with my cards, that you must excuse yourself with the ladies; and I dare say we will be quite glad of your company."

Thus saying, he resumed his cards, to which he devoted his exclusive attention; and Frank had now to speak to Rosa.

His unexpected arrival, which she had not even seen coming, had driven the warm blood to her beautiful cheeks; but, happily, during her mother's lengthy absence, she had sufficient time to collect herself; and when Mannerstedt, pale and depressed, with deep and silent sadness in his dark glance, approached, she gave him her hand, saying, "Good evening, Mr. Mannerstedt; I am very sorry for you, but I sympathize with your sorrow, from the bottom of my heart. I well know how deadly you looked the departed, and I therefore also know how you must mourn his loss; but your mind is strong, and I hope and trust that you will sorrow for him, in the gentle way that sorrow has given to his first and natural tributes."

In Rosa's voice lay a far deeper and warmer sympathy than in the words themselves, which penetrated Frank's heart; and he ventured to retain her hand for an instant in his own, as he replied:—"Oh, no, dear kind Rosa; I was assured, that however difficult the struggle may be, I will not fail to overcome it!"

"Eh, eh, Rosa, what are you thinking?" cried her mother, who could not exactly hear what they were saying, but had the idea that there was a secret between them going on, which she could not speak of. Mannerstedt's sorrows: they are painful enough. Come here, my dear Mr. Mannerstedt, and sit down by me; I have some better comfort to offer.

An unknown friend of yours sent a packet here on Christmas eve, and I kept it to give to my sister. I have your card, and will put it down to her in cabin, and bring that large parcel which is lying on the table."

Caroline's reluctant fingers, after a twice-repeated "make haste, my darling," laid aside the dear doll, and in a few seconds removed it, a packet at the appearance of whom, Frank was sensible of an emotion of quite a different nature from that which he experienced on receiving the gift.

"Oh, no, Mr. Mannerstedt had answered? yes to my question, that he would have informed me of the news which always sacred to him, and he therefore answered so absurdly, that he was hardly possible to judge of so young a child with any certainty."

Madame Widens let the subject drop, as she saw was destined to pursue it, and said to herself, "What a poor creature I am!" but to say what was on her mind.

"The little love was a miracle of obedience; she came in an instant. Madame took the scissors, and saying "there," with a rapid movement of her own noble fingers the string fastened to the string of course Mannerstedt, as in duty bound, said—

"I am exceedingly obliged to you, Madame."

The parcel was opened, and a black suit of clothes, of the utmost fitness and most fashion, was displayed to her view. As Mrs. Widens could not take the clothes to convince herself that they were complete in all respects, which, to her satisfaction, she found to be the case, a folded paper fell out, upon which was written, "Accept this from a friend to indicate your forcible exertion."

In this paper also a couple of bank notes, each of fifty dollars.

Mannerstedt stood there, with the note in his hand; he was silent; a tear of gratitude glittered

in his eye—and we say no more than the strict truth, when we assure our readers that the reason why there was a tear in his eye was to be found in the world; and that he had been fortunate as to attract the attention of such a person to himself, filled Frank's head with more joyous and happy sensations than the possesson of the presents.

"With my love.—Rosa deo!—Heaven our poor Mother, has reason for rejoicing; those clothe—look, look—only look!" and the lady held the suit aloft, took the bank notes from Mannerstedt's hand, and displayed them to her husband.

Yet this, though searching both proper, had not a look of good will and kindred to it; and it was after Madame Widens' own way that Frank allowed it to pass without opposition.

Rosa seemed to look only at the writing.

"What do you think, my angel?" asked her mother. "Do you know the hand? Oh, I should so like to find out who it came from. You ever seen the hand before, Rosa, does it?"

"No—I cannot recollect it just this instant," replied she, slowly; but Mannerstedt, whose eyes had followed her movements, fancied he could see that she only avoided speaking her thoughts, in order not to expose them all.

"My wife," exclaimed she, quickly, springing up; her toilette was made in all haste; and soon afterwards Rosa entered Mrs. Borgelson's apartment, with which we are already acquainted. The old lady rose quickly from her chair, and followed her with her eyes.

Rosa would not suffer her thoughts to linger upon the subject, and she strove with all her energy to drive away from this all-powerful memory.

"My wife," said Mrs. Borgelson, "has been ill; and I am afraid she will not be able to go to rest before her annual hours; but before her fingers had touched the keys, she caught sight of a folded paper. Her heart beat as she opened it. It contained the music and some words which had promised her; but too timid to open them, she laid him beside her, and he, too, closed his eyes, and slept.

Rosa listened to all with pleasure, and wished Hilda joy in all her undertakings; the two girls spent a most agreeable evening together, and both promised to visit each other frequently. Ferdinand was not even mentioned; yet both felt that this topic was contraband.

When Mannerstedt had gone home, and paid his respects to the little brother and sisters, he returned to his room, and there found his mother, who had been ill, and was now resting.

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TO ADVERTISERS.

Mr. W. H. WOOD is our authorized canvassing agent for New York and vicinity, and will receive and forward advertisements for the *ERA* at our lowest rates.
Advertisements can be sent to his office, No. 22 Spruce street.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 1855.

Mr. Seward's able speech at Buffalo will be found on the fourth page of this day's *Era*. No reader of taste or discrimination will fail to give it a careful perusal. It is a fitting sequel to the great speech at Albany, which we published last week.

The Hon. CHARLES SUMNER has addressed the people of Massachusetts in various places, within a few days, and has everywhere met with immense crowds of enthusiastic listeners. The newspapers speak in glowing terms of his eloquent and effective addresses. We have received the speech delivered in Faneuil Hall, on the 2d inst, and, from a hasty glance, find, as sure, that its merits have not been exaggerated.

GOV. SEWARD'S SPEECH IN GREENB.

We are pleased to learn, by a notice in another column, that the Republican Association of this city have had the admirable speech recently delivered at Albany, by Mr. Seward, translated into the German language, and published in pamphlet form. We hope the friends of Freedom will give it a wide circulation.

BLACK MAIL.

The Washington *Organ* and other presses having charged that the Administration had extorted contributions from the clerks and other subordinate officials in this city, the *Union* responds as follows:

The Know Nothing papers are excessively indulgent. A collection was raised in one of the Departments of this city, for the purpose of assisting the Democratic cause in the city of Baltimore at the approaching election, and grave charges are hurled against one of the chiefs of the Department alluded to, for his exertions in recommending these contributions. We confess that we see no grievous harm in all that.

The question was still on side issues—the question was not, openly, Freedom or Slavery, but Slavery or Conservatism. The North was not at that time sufficiently aroused to the importance of vindicating the principles of Freedom. The slave oligarchy had commanded man and great outrages; it had greatly perverted the ends of Government, monopolized the North's share of Federal power and patronage; but still, all were regarded as "honorable men"—"Cathorn was an honorable man," "Clay was an "honorable man," and the South was regarded as the very laud of chivalrous honor. But the repeal of the Nebraska bill has at last opened the eyes of the Northern people to the singular delusion which they have for generations indulged, that a system which violates every principle of justice is the peculiar nursery of honor and good faith. They at length see their error, and are resolved to repair the injury which they have sustained from the indulgence. The last subterfuge of demagogues, the last refuge of lies, is at length swept away, and the friends of Freedom and Slavery must be taxed for any such purpose.

Does the *Union* mean to sanction this capitulation upon the clerks? And does the official organ admit that a corruption fund has been raised, to carry the Maryland election, by this dishonorable and tyrannical exaction? It is not business in which an honorable man would participate as a tax-gatherer, though we fear that many honest men, with families to support, have been the victims of it. Let the *Union* speak out more distinctly. Let it answer if the Federal Administration has stooped to the infamous, petty tyranny, of exacting contributions from office-holders.

PASSMORE WILLIAMSON RELEASED.

Our readers will rejoice at the release of Passmore Williamson from unlawful imprisonment. Williamson was released from the United States District Court in Philadelphia, accompanied by Messrs. Mardith, Gilpin, and Hopper, his counsel, and offered a petition, in which he expressed his willingness to purge himself of the contempt in the Wheeling case, which he was compelled to do. He fully hoped Judge Kane would have granted the petition, granted the prayer, and required Williamson to affirm to what he had to say in reply to the interrogatories of the Court. Certain interrogatories were then propounded to him by Mr. Vandike, the District Attorney, to which he made full confession.

"I did not seek to obey the writ by producing the persons therein mentioned before the Court, because I had not, at the time of the service of the writ, the power over the custody or control of them, nor therefore was it necessary for me to do so." I first heard the writ of habeas corpus on Friday, October 26th, between one and two o'clock A. M., on my return from Harrisburg. After breakfast, about nine o'clock, I went from my house to Mr. Hopper's office, where I told the returning process server that the same came into court, as commanded by the writ. I sought to obey the writ, by answering it truly. The parties not being in my possession or control, it was impossible for me to obey the writ by producing them. Since the service of the writ, I have not seen them again. The power over them was not known to me; wherefore I was excepted from the common rumor or the newspaper reports, in regard to their public appearance in the city or elsewhere."

Some discussion arose between the District Attorney and the counsel of Mr. Williamson. Mr. Vandike contended that the reply of his defendant was evasive and contradictory. The Judge said the difficulty, he thought, could easily be overcome, by amending the answer; and, at the suggestion of the Court, it was amended in the following manner: "I did not seek to obey the writ, because I verily believed that it was entirely impossible for me to produce the said persons agreeably to the command of the Court."

The answer was accepted by the Court, and ordered to be filed.

Judge Kane then remarked that the District Attorney had been invited to aid the Court in this case, but that he would be in mind that his relation to Mr. Wheeler was now suspended, and that he had no right to be present when the process of the Court had been done.

Mr. Vandike said he was aware of the position he had assumed.

Judge Kane then said: "The contempt is now fully purged, and the party is released from confinement." He now reinstated the position he occupied before the contempt was committed. Mr. Williamson is now before me on the return of the writ."

Mr. Vandike then arose, and addressed the Court, stating that a *nolle pross* had been entered on behalf of Mr. Wheeler, entered a suit for damages in the United States Circuit Court. Judge Kane thereupon discharged Williamson from custody. He was immediately surrounded, and heartily congratulated by his friends. His is said to look exceedingly well.

It will be seen that the only difference between Williamson's answer above, and that originally given, is, that he now omits to assert that he never had possession of the negroes, but by no means asserts the contrary. Thus has the voice of the People and the thunder of the Press opened the prison-doors, and vindicated the cause of Freedom and Justice against the strong arm of Federal Tyranny.

EUROPEAN AGENCY FOR THE ERA.

L. A. Chamerovszky, Esq., 27 New Broad street, London, England, has kindly consented to act as agent for the *National Era* in Great Britain and Europe.

THE PRESIDENCY.

In less than twelve months from to-day, the people of the United States will be called on to select a President for the succeeding four years, under circumstances of extraordinary importance. All previous contests of the kind are thrown into the shade, in comparison with that which is now approaching, in the influence which it is destined to wield upon the national character and welfare. The growth of the Pro-Slavery sentiment has been gradual, from an early period of our history to the present time; and the encroachments of the slave oligarchy upon rights of the people, commanding by stealth and almost imperceptible approaches, has risen at length to the fearful height of threatening the overthrow of the last remnant of constitutional and civil freedom. The question of Slavery has, for a dozen years, exercised a potent influence on the politics of the country, and in the last Presidential struggle it was almost the only subject of controversy. But never until now was it the sole issue, fairly made up, with the friends of Freedom arrayed on one side, and those of Slavery on the other. In 1844, the annexation of Texas was the turning point; but thousands of Southerners have now become ardent supporters of the Slave Power.

The Locos everywhere, south of Mason and Dixon's line, have the inside track of the dark-lantern boys, for the reason that they are regarded as more actively subservient to the Slave Power. The Locos are the aggressive Pro-Slavery party, the champions of Slavery extension; while the Know Nothing are the timid conservatives who only protest attachment to Southern institutions, and acquiesce in the acquisition of their opponents' slaves.

But the ultra Pro-Slavery character of the Locofoco platform, while it will make them invincible in the South, will render it impossible to carry a single free State on a direct issue of Pro-Slavery. Anti-Slavery President. In 1848, each of the great parties avoided as far as practicable a direct issue on the subject of Slavery—the Whigs as a party saying nothing, and leaving its members in the different sections of the Union to say what they pleased; while the Democratic party made a great noise over its hobby of non-intervention. As parties, neither made a direct issue with the Buffalo Free-Soulers, while the Northern partisans of Cass and Taylor, particularly of the latter, claimed to be equally hostile with the Friends of Slavery.

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WASHINGTON, D. C.

THE CONTEST AND THE CRISIS.
THE POLITICS OF JUSTICE, EQUALITY, AND
FREEDOM.

SPEECH OF HON. WILLIAM H. SEWARD
At the Great Republican Meeting in Buffalo,
OCTOBER 19, 1855.

I am always proud of my native State, when I stand in the presence of the mountains under whose shadow I was born, or on the shores of the silvery lakes among which I dwelt. I am particularly proud of the great achievements of the Capital, I see the Mediterranean waters of the continent, obedient to her command, mingle their floods with those of the world-encompassing ocean. No less buoyant is my pride now, when standing here in the presence of New York, the mightiest metropolis I ever saw. New York is the gathering point of the West, and standing sentinel on the frontier of the Republic, whose safety constitutes the hope of the human race. Speaking on such a stage, how can I do otherwise than speak thoughtfully, sincerely, earnestly?

Ye good people! The Republican Party, commanding throughout all our borders a deep-toned alarm, for the safety of the Constitution, of Union, and of Liberty. Do you hear it? The Republican Party declares that, by means of recent remarkable measures adopted by Congress, the constitutional safeguards of citizens, the constitutional safeguards of citizens, identical with the rights of human nature itself, are undermined, impaired, and in danger of being overthrown. It declares, that if those safeguards, not immediately renewed and restored, the Government, will pass into the hands of an insidious aristocracy, and its batteries be turned against the cause which it was reared to defend.

The Republican Party is not deficient, either in intelligence, or in earnest patriotism, in moderation, or in self-sacrifice. It is, however, among those who, in all our political, moral, and religious associations, have been enlightened and as efficient as their fellows. Those who constitute its masses, have, for long periods, and others throughout long lives, been constant supporters, not only of the two first principles of the Republic, Justice, Equality, and Liberty, which are the basis of Republican Government. Not one of them, so far as we know, has ever counseled sedition or factional measures. The Republican Party holds other paramount or at least respectable rank, and authority, than any other party in the Representatives of each of those States in the Federal Union.

It is, indeed, popularly regarded as a Party of yesterday. But, practically, it is old and well known, and the spirit of patriotic jealousy of the increase and extension of Slavery, and the plantation organization, and admission of free States in the common Territories of the United States. This policy is even older than the Constitution itself. It was the policy of Jay, Webster, and Wilmot. It was the policy of the Anti-slavery party in prohibiting the African slave trade, and devoting the Northwest Territory to impartial freedom. Although it has not always prevailed in the Federal Government, it has, without change or even the shadow of turning, been always the policy of the Free Soil party, which has been the most numerous party in the country, and the most influential in the Slaveholding States, and the most powerful in the Slaveholding party of the Confederacy, and as loyal as any other member. Those who have cherished this policy have, however, been divided and distributed among the many parties which have existed, until, by recent events, the party which the Slaveholding party has been selected and defeated. Defeated, but not successfully, regressed, that policy has at last worked out a disintegration of all the parties by whom it was unwisely and disloyally discarded. It advocates, that engaged and released from diverse and uncooperative relations, have come together by means of a just and natural affinity, and have organized, and they now constitute the Republican Party.

Slavery, contrary to the expectations of the founders of the Republic, still exists in this, the seventy-ninth year of its existence; but it is at once to be perceived, that it is no longer, but, at present, a reasonable hope of at least a long continuance. On the other hand, the love of Equality, springing alike and all at once from the consciences, the judgments, and the hearts of the American people, is irreconcileable and imperious—an impulse to remain, and to protect, not only the chief combatants, but practically the only combatants in the Union. Such is the Republican Party, and such are the circumstances under which it appeals to you to enlist under its banner, and give it your enlightened and effective co-operation. Shall I have on your part a fair and candid hearing in its behalf?

I am well aware that at this moment large popular masses are at rest, while others, broken up in the general wreck of former parties, are moving capriciously, and in divergent directions. Let me assure you, that the mass of men at rest, have a sort of instinct to overcome; and that popular masses, suddenly and violently disturbed, cannot all at once compose themselves, and organize. I apprehend, therefore, that here, elsewhere, there is, in the course of events, a disposition to avoid the organization which seems to me to have become necessary. Both of these dispositions pertain to neutrality.

Are you indeed sure, then, that neutrality will be right, and safe, for us? Is it not, that neutrality is maintained in this Republic, otherwise, than through the conflicts of great parties? Where there are no great parties, there are either many small, or no parties, facts whatever. A State that surrenders itself to the confused contests of small parties, can hardly inevitably towards despotism. A State that has no parties or factions at all, is a despotism already.

In every conflict between great parties, (speaking without reference to the motives of leaders or of masses,) there is not one side that is not, in some way, to the right side, and which, hence, is it in the interest of the side favorable to the public welfare and the public safety; and also another side that is absolutely or relatively the wrong side, and therefore the side detrimental to the public welfare, and to the public safety, and to all political anything else than the welfare and safety of all its individual members? Can I justly expect you to defend my interest, and to assure my safety, if I will defend and guard them myself? In this Republic, it has been made a capital crime to refuse to do a thing, in a political contest that agitated the commonwealth. The penalty was indeed too severe, but was not the policy of the law just and wise? Still you fear agitation, and disasterous results. Was not the British Empire, for centuries, when so suddenly won down, and the States renounced their loyalty to the Union? The question is, what are the great parties, the whole summary of social rights, contained in the Constitution. It is derogatory from the absolute rights of Human Nature, and no human power can subvert those rights. On which side, then, are Justice, Equality, and Freedom? To whom do they belong? Are they to be maintained, or to be destroyed? And if to death? Quiet and repose are indeed desirable, when they can be safely enjoyed; but they can be safely enjoyed only when they consist of great activity, and repair and fit the world's commonwealth for renewed watchfulness.

Can you maintain neutrality? If you enlist into, or remain associated with the Democratic Party, or either of its sections, that is to say, or sustain disloyal opposition to the Republicans, all its successiveness, to the advantage of the slaveholders. Is neutrality easy to be maintained, amid the excitement of political contests? Zealous men in opposing parties must surely respect each other, if they are generous;

but they agree in despising the timid and shrinking citizen. In every campaign, the place of greatest danger is the neutral ground lying between the two lines, because it is raked by fire of both armies.

Please consider the immunities of neutrality may be secured by remaining in some independent outside association. How long do you think any considerable mass of American citizens—enlightened, open, manly, ardent as they are to be amused or interested in a merely private military, belligerent, pretentious, and its state debates about the proper conditions of naturalization, and the claims of adopted citizens to the privilege of gracing the parades of the militia on master days, and the nonrecognition of Canada on master days, and the nonrecognition of the Canadian Province, and the rights of churches in burling grounds, when the discussion of the great question, whether this shall be a land of freedom or a land of slaves, shall have actually begun, and every populous tributary is involved? When the act of war, light and faint, subsides, safety, and its state debates on its surface, among its merchandise and its ships of war. But when the storm king dashes, and they rise up to kiss his feet, the fantastical craft, no matter how broad his streamers, or how sharp his keel, or how determined his auxiliary apparatus.

I could, therefore, that you all, if not now, yet soon enough, will take one side or the other in this great controversy.

Which side? It will be the side on which Justice, Equality, and Freedom, shall be found; and, therefore, on which final success and triumph, and, finally, on which the mathematician, the philosopher, the statesman, the orator, and the poet, shall be found. The mathematician, the philosopher, the statesman, the orator, and the poet, shall be found. The side of those who are laboring to fortify and strengthen the Union, and to sustain the American Union, the only defense of the slaveholders—their only protection. If ever they shall, in a season of madness, records from the coast of Africa, and the steamer, the barge, the brig, and schooner, which crowd this harbor of Buffalo, bringing hither the productions of the Mississippi Valley, and of the Gulf Coast, in exchange for the products of the Atlantic and the Pacific, and of the tea and spices of Asia? Where would have been the coasting vessels, the merchant ships, the clipper ships, the whale ships, and the ocean mail steamers, which are rapidly concentrating in our greatest seaport the Commerce of the World? Where the American Navy, at once the representative of the shipping interests of the United States, and the national protection for freedom, constantly in their presence, in their very midst? The world without protection, and with the sword of the gospel. Christ preached to him in his own tongue? Where would have been the steamers, the barges, the brigs, and schooners, which crowd this harbor of Buffalo, bringing hither the productions of the Mississippi Valley, and of the Gulf Coast, in exchange for the products of the Atlantic and the Pacific, and of the tea and spices of Asia? 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